

# FY 2005 Report of Accomplishments

## Palouse Conservation District



### District Accomplishments in FY 2005 – Summary

- *Water quality and wildlife habitat were improved by installation of 19,000 conservation trees and shrubs.*
- *Negative impacts to water quality were reduced by development of 9 RMS livestock conservation plans.*
- *Continued working with farmers to improve air quality by reducing agricultural burning.*
- *One-on-one technical assistance was provided to 505 landowners.*
- *Initiated Phase 3 of WRIA 34: Palouse River Watershed Planning.*



*WSU Student Volunteers  
Planting Trees on the Palouse*

### Mission of the Palouse Conservation District

- *To actively assist current and future generations of land managers (urban & rural) in implementing conservation practices by providing educational, technical and financial assistance.*

### Water Quality Implementation

- *Provided on-phone technical assistance to 257 customers, in-office technical assistance to 96 customers, and on-site technical assistance to 82 customers. The majority of this assistance related to conservation tree and shrub establishment (site inventory/assessment, weed control, wildlife damage control, etc.) and livestock conservation planning.*

### Basic Funding

- *Basic Funding was used to help with operational costs associated with keeping the doors open so our customers could have access to our technical assistance services. Basic Funding was also used to cover costs associated with conducting monthly Board meetings, RC&D participation, and training for staff and supervisors.*

### Watershed Planning

- *Completed Phase 2 and continued as Lead Agency for Phase 3 of WRIA 34: Palouse River Watershed Planning. Provided grant administration, project management and meeting facilitation services to the Planning Unit. Also, coordinated consultant projects that included water quality, storage and instream flow work.*

### Air Quality Program

- *Continued participation in the agricultural burning permit program. The District continued to administer the program under a sub-delegation authority through Whitman County for the WA Dept. of Ecology. District staff worked one-on-one with producers to assist them in meeting a voluntary, self-imposed reduction in field burning. District staff provided direct technical assistance to 87 landowners/operators. Also, to successfully administer this program, District staff had to work closely with neighboring conservation districts, fire districts, county commissioners, concerned citizens and the WA Dept. of Ecology. The District continues to seek ways to reduce burning but still maintain fire as an important agricultural tool.*

### Water Quality Monitoring

- *Due to a lack of funding, no instream monitoring occurred in FY 2005. However, the District continued to work with WA Dept. of Ecology to identify future needs associated with TMDL work that will be conducted in the District.*
- *Also, an Earth Team Volunteer working for the District completed research on a historical riparian vegetation survey for Union Flat Creek.*

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## **Watershed Conservation/Habitat Restoration**

- *Responsible for 19,000 conservation trees and shrubs planted in our District. This was accomplished through grant projects, educational/volunteer events and the District's tree sale program. The purpose of the plantings varied from riparian buffer establishment to wildlife habitat enhancement to upland slope stabilization.*

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## **Livestock Conservation Planning Program**

- *Worked with 14 livestock owners (both non-commercial and commercial operations) for conservation plan development and BMP implementation for the purposes of reducing negative impacts to water quality.*

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## **Community Collaboration & Coordination**

- *Coordinated riparian planting projects with WSU students and other community volunteers. Approximately 70 volunteers spent 210 hours to plant 400 conservation trees and shrubs along the South Fork Palouse River and to learn about conservation. This was made possible by a grant through the Verle Kaiser Conservation Endowment.*

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## **Information & Education**

- *Hosted a bus tour of the western half of the Palouse River Watershed highlighting conservation practices that have been installed and issues to be addressed through watershed planning.*
- *Published two newsletters during the year to keep the public informed on District programs and current conservation issues. Average circulation of 675.*
- *Participated in regional Envirothon natural resource contest which was attended by approx. 150 area high school students.*
- *Partnered with three neighboring conservation districts, NRCS, FSA and WA Fish & Wildlife to set up and attend a large fair booth display at the county fair which reached over 1,000 customers.*



*District Manager, Rob Buchert, returns to his "roots" by helping out with the tree planting effort.*

Washington Conservation Districts assisting  
land managers with their conservation choices.